

DATE: July 13, 2022

RE: Council Motion re: Recommendations for Rental Incentive and MAARS Projects

To Whom It May Concern:

As one of the participants in the dialogue series relating to affordability in the housing market, I write on behalf of Together Against Poverty Society to support the motion by members of council to explore the use of property tax exemptions to promote the right to return for tenants and use of rental supplements as part of the rental incentive program.

TAPS is one of the largest providers of legal advocacy services in the area of residential tenancy, and each year we help hundreds of low-income tenants by providing information, summary advice, and representation with matters before the Residential Tenancy Branch. We have seen an acute need for new solutions to what have now become entrenched issues with affordability in our housing market, and an urgent requirement to protect low-income renters in Victoria who are residing in aging housing stock.

While there are many things that need to be addressed, we believe the municipality has a unique ability to provide support for renters who are living in buildings that will inevitably require replacement or renovation, and we believe the approaches explored by the dialogue series have the potential to ensure the most vulnerable tenants maintain access to affordable housing throughout the redevelopment process.

We urge all members of council to support the motion, and for staff to work with council to determine how property tax exemptions may be used to provide rent supplements and ensure affordability when a development process unfolds, as one of many initiatives to address housing insecurity among our most vulnerable renters.

Sincerely,



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